

CORONAVIRUS — COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD

461. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Why has the government extended the pensioner free travel entitlement for 45 000 cardholders whose entitlements expired between March and May but the government refused to rollover the unused funds for the 54 000 Country Age Pension Fuel Card holders?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The advice I have is that Transwa services were suspended for a period and, therefore, people had an extension on the entitlement because the government took away the service that was available. No-one has taken away the fuel card and no-one has taken away people's capacity to drive. It is a ridiculous argument.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I just urge people to go out there and spend the money. They should go out there and fill up their cars. Is that what we are reduced to in this Parliament—these sorts of questions? I urge everyone out there across regional Western Australia —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: National Party members, please!

Mr M. McGOWAN: — to go to the service station, get to the pump, fill up their cars, travel around our state and enjoy the great regional parts of Western Australia, safe in the knowledge that under this government, there will be a huge improvement in road safety across regional areas in Western Australia. The road safety improvement program, with audible edging and shoulder works all over Western Australia, is worth \$100 million. It was announced on Sunday. There is the Bussell Highway project under this government. We put forward that Bussell Highway project to the commonwealth. We are putting in our bit. Bussell Highway is getting fixed. It sat there for years in a currently safe Liberal seat unable to be fixed because the Liberal Party did not put any effort in. We are building the Bunbury Outer Ring Road, connecting to the Bussell Highway, making sure the people of Busselton, Capel and everywhere else down there, and people travelling from the city, can get around there safely. The road improvements in Exmouth were talked about for years; we are doing them. All those people eligible for the Country Age Pension Fuel Card can go to the petrol station, take the nozzle off the bowser, put it in their tank and fill it up. They are free to do so; the money is there.